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THE SAGA OF DEFLATE-GATE CONTINUES PAGE 32



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State court sticks up for teachers against SRC

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Tips for a smoother natural birth

PAGE 15

Selena: Caught in bed with who?!

PAGE 25

Will Embiid ever pan out for the Sixers?

PAGE 30



Movies. After spending the past year on music, the actress-singer is back in films with the steamy thriller "The Boy Next Door." She talks about getting hot and heavy in the name of art and how she's somehow managed to never have a stalker. PAGE 16

Jennifer Lopez

UNCOVERED

Jennifer Lopez stars in the new movie "The Boy Next Door." / WIREIMAGE

1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 Interview: Al Pacino talks 'The Humbling' and forgetting lines

2 Amex and eBay to cut thousands of jobs

3 Marvel stars make awesome Super Bowl bet



On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Commonwealth Court rules in teachers' favor

Overtured. The SRC canceled teacher contracts in October, but a state court ruled it illegal.

It turns out the School Reform Commission can't cancel teachers' contracts after all.

The state's Commonwealth Court ruled in favor of the teachers, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers President Jerry Jordan confirmed in a statement Thursday.

"The PA Commonwealth Court today handed down a decision that affirms what we have been saying for months: the School Reform Commission's move last October to unilaterally cancel the PFT contract was an unjust and blatant violation," Jordan said in the statement.

On Oct. 6 the SRC, the board that governs the school district of Philadelphia, announced it was canceling the teacher's contracts to make changes to the teacher's healthcare packages.

Citing the 2001 state takeover agreement, the board claimed it had the power to strike down the contract and impose its own terms.

The SRC allowed teachers to stay, but cut their pay and required they contribute more to their health benefits. Officials said the



SRC head Bill Green (left) was disappointed in the decision, but Federation of Teachers president Jerry Jordan, top right, felt vindicated. / FILE PHOTO

Quoted

"We cannot find that the legislature has provided the means expressly required to pursue the current path chosen by the SRC."

Commonwealth Court judges

changes would save the district more than \$50 million a year.

In its decision, the Commonwealth Court Judges ruled that the SRC did not have the power to cancel the contracts and impose its own terms. State legislation would be needed to grant the SRC that power, and no legislation to this point has done so, according to court documents.

"This Court is cognizant



Details

The SRC plan was to have teacher's union members pay into their benefits.

Currently, the union members do not contribute.

Also under the plan, retired employees benefits would no longer be paid.

These changes were expected to save more than \$50 million annually.

of the dire financial situation which the District currently faces," Judge Patricia A. McCullough wrote in the court's conclusion. "However, ... we cannot find that the legislature has provided the means expressly required to pursue the current path chosen by the SRC."

Bill Green, chair of the School Reform Commission, said in a statement that the SRC was "obviously disappointed with the decision."

"We continue to believe that the SRC had clear statutory authority for its action and was exercising one of the core functions for which it was created:

seeking to achieve financial stability for the District amid a crisis of underfunding that prevents our schools from providing basic resources and services to students," Green said.

Mayor Michael Nutter, in a statement, asked the union and the SRC to return to the bargaining table "immediately and do the work needed to reach agreement on a contract that provides for the changes needed to educate better our children and that also respects the teachers in their work."



TOMMY ROWAN
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Bensalem. Philly man pimped out girl, 17

A 21-year-old Philadelphia man pimped out a 17-year-old Philadelphia girl from a Bucks County hotel last year, according to court documents.

Daiquan Davis was arraigned Thursday on sex-trafficking charges for allegedly setting up "dates" for the girl that would typically end at the Bensalem motel room, according to court

documents.

Undercover Bensalem cops contacted the girl through an online advertisement, and found Davis outside the room. His cell phone number matched the number on the girl's ad. The girl, who was found inside the motel room, was previously reported as missing. **METRO**

'SELMA'

City offers students free movie tickets

If young people want to see the movie "SELMA," the city will get them in for free.

The city and a few sponsors picked up the bill for 3,000 more tickets to the film, which documents the story behind the Martin Luther King-led protests through the southern town, for

young people who want to see the movie.

The free tickets are part of a 28-city promotion of the picture sponsored by Paramount, the film's distributor.

Middle and high school students with a valid student I.D. or who bring a report card to the box office of participating movie theaters can receive free tickets while supplies last.

For a list of participating



David Oyelowo plays King. ATSUHI NISHIJIMA

theaters, visit <http://selmastudenttickets.com/>. **TOMMY ROWAN**

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Philadelphia

Philly cops in sting waive hearings

Representatives Ronald Waters and Vanessa Lowery Brown waived their hearings in a Dauphin County court, D.A. Seth Williams said Thursday.

Waters and Brown were arrested for accepting \$8,750 and \$4,000, respectively, from an undercover informant who led a corruption sting directed by then-Attorney General Tom Corbett while wearing a wire. They did not deny the charges. **SAM NEWHOUSE**



Waters in video recorded by the informant.
PHILLY D.A.'S OFFICE

Former detective charged in girlfriend evidence cover-up

Murder. Ronald Dove allegedly helped his girlfriend by hiding her and evidence.

A former Philly homicide detective has been officially charged with helping his girlfriend to conceal a 2013 murder, D.A. Seth Williams said Thursday.

Prosecutors accused Ronald Dove of helping his lover, Erica Sanchez, conceal evidence after she murdered her boyfriend, Cesar Vera, in September 2013 — even as his own unit searched for Sanchez.

"He did everything he could to lie to other members of the police department homicide unit, to find out what they knew," D.A. Williams said at a



Disgraced former PPD Detective Ronald Dove, left, and his girlfriend Erica Sanchez / PPD



Quoted

"It's a sad testament when you have a police officer doing all that he can to shield a homicide suspect."

Williams

press conference.

Sanchez is accused of stabbing Vera in the heart, killing him, while at an after-hours club in Kensington; she then called Dove for help in hiding from authorities, according to the indictment.

Dove drove Sanchez' car away from the crime scene, brought her to a

Holiday Inn in upstate New York and paid for her room, and bought her a new cell phone — all while Philadelphia detectives from his own unit were searching for Sanchez, according to prosecutors. Several witnesses identified Sanchez as Vera's killer, they added.

"He financed her flight to New York," Williams said.

At one point while Sanchez was in hiding, Dove took her on a weekend getaway to Niagara Falls, Williams said.

Sanchez surrendered to face murder charges about a month after the trip. Dove was suspended in November, after the police department found he had violated departmental policy.



SAM NEWHOUSE
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Under investigation

Williams and other prosecutors declined to comment on any of the other unsolved murders that Dove worked, saying a grand jury is still hearing evidence.

Those murders include:

- Leslie Delzingaro, killed in July 2010
- Melanie Zee Colon, killed in May 2012
- Reynaldo Torres, disappeared in May 2012. His jawbone was recovered by police in a playground in November 2013.
- Don Ly, a South Philly fruit vendor killed in April 2013

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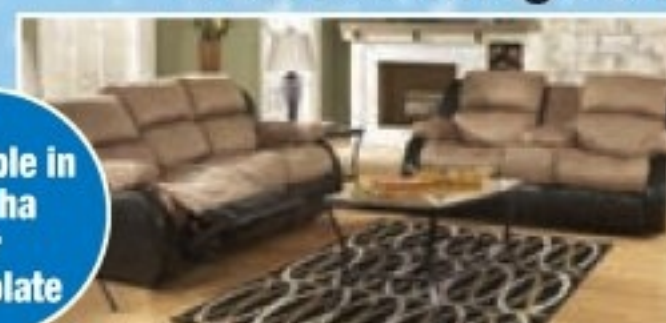
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Center City

Hub of Hope
to reopen
in concourse

Hub of Hope, a social service center for the homeless run by Project HOME in the Suburban Station concourse, will reopen.

The Hub has been open between January and April for the last three winters, but this year, the landlord of 2 Penn Center told them they could not return.

After public outcry, Project HOME announced Thursday that the landlord reversed itself and is welcoming them back to the space.

The Hub provides the homeless with free housing assistance, medical services and donated goods. Visit ProjectHome.org to see a wish list of needed goods. If you see a homeless person who needs urgent help, call Project HOME at 215-232-1984. **METRO**



Dickinson Narrows hot in January

The real estate website Redfin named the small South Philadelphia neighborhood Dickinson Narrows as the country's second-hottest neighborhood of 2015. Dickinson is located between 4th Street to the east and 6th Street to the west, and enclosed by Washington Avenue to the north and Miiflin Street to the south. It was only eclipsed by the enclave El Cerrito in San Diego. The site reported the median sale price as \$192,000. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Injured. Girl, 17,
beaten by unknown
man on SEPTA trolley

A 17-year-old girl was beaten on a SEPTA trolley Wednesday morning after bumping into a man, police said.

The girl, identified only as "Shay" by NBC10, told the news outlet she was assaulted around 7:30 a.m. shortly after boarding the Route 15 trolley.

Police said that as the trolley was in motion, moving eastbound toward Girard Avenue, Shay accidentally bumped into the man several times with her backpack.

The man, upset by

the hits, pulled a hat Shay was wearing off her head and dropped it on the floor. According to police, when she leaned over to pick it up, the man punched her several times in the face, head and body.

The altercation was caught on cellphone video, which is being reviewed by police.

Police are on the lookout for the man, who got off the trolley at 7th Street and Girard Avenue.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 215.686.TIPS.

TOMMY ROWAN

Injuries

- Shay's eye was swollen shut.
- She suffered bruising under her right eye and around her face.
- Her nose may be broken.
- Shay was released from the hospital on Thursday.

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Deeper into chaos

Yemen's
president
resigns

Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi resigned on Thursday, throwing the volatile Arab country deeper into chaos days after Houthi rebels battled their way into his presidential palace.

Hadi, a counter-terrorism ally of the United States, stood down abruptly shortly after Prime Minister Khaled Baha had offered his government's resignation, saying it did not want to be dragged into "an unconstructive political maze".

This was an apparent reference to a stand-off between Hadi and the Shi'ite Muslim Houthi movement that has been holding the president a virtual prisoner in his own official residence.

REUTERS



Obama to snub Netanyahu during Israeli leader's visit



President Obama will not meet with Benjamin Netanyahu when the Israeli prime minister visits Washington, D.C. / GETTY IMAGES

Blindsiding Obama. Speaker Boehner invited the Israeli prime minister to address Congress on Feb. 11.

President Barack Obama won't meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he visits Washington in March to address a pro-Israel group and speak to Congress because it's too close to the Israeli elections, the White House said.

Netanyahu plans to speak at the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington and will address Congress on March 3, the Israeli government said Thursday. Elections in Israel are set for March 17.

The decision not to have

Obama meet with Netanyahu keeps with "long-standing practice and principle" to avoid the appearance of influencing elections in other nations, said Bernadette Meehan, a White House spokeswoman.

Netanyahu's trip to Washington, though, already has become embroiled in both U.S. and Israeli politics. It puts him in the middle of a politically charged debate in Congress over imposing additional sanctions on Iran in defiance of Obama's policies. Israeli opposition lawmakers criticized his decision to speak to the U.S. Congress as a political maneuver at the height of an election campaign.

Boehner said Thursday on his Twitter feed that the speech was moved to March 3 so that Netanyahu could couple it with attendance at the annual Aipac conference, a major gath-

Quoted

"As a matter of long-standing practice and principle, we do not see heads of state or candidates in close proximity to their elections, so as to avoid the appearance of influencing a democratic election in a foreign country."

Meehan said in an e-mail

ering of pro-Israel activists that he regularly addresses in person or by video link.

The White House said it wasn't consulted on Boehner's invitation and until the new date was set on Thursday, officials said they hadn't discussed an Obama-Netanyahu meeting with the Israeli government. **BLOOMBERG**

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Nice to meat you, Mr. President

Satirical project

Avoid politics, just like meat

For Instagrammer and artist Saint Hoax, politicians are processed, and packaged as an enticing yet sinful product to consume — just like a massive slab of meat. And that's not agreeable, says Hoax, for the so-called "politarian", a "person who doesn't consume politics or politicians especially for moral, religious, or health reasons" — to whom this satirical series is dedicated. **MWN**



The series includes photographs of David Cameron, Kim Jong-un, Benjamin Netanyahu and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan / @SAINTHOAX



US President Barack Obama



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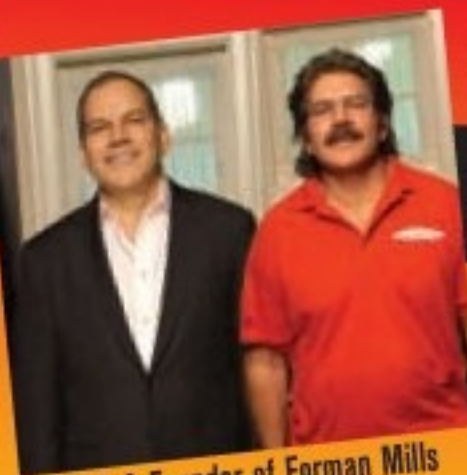
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New heaters go to Pennsylvania residents by zip code

Brand new heaters are being delivered to the first Philadelphia area callers who beat the 3 day order deadline to get brand new Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch heaters that drastically slash heat bills

Never be cold again: If you live in one of the zip code areas listed below call the Toll Free Hotlines to get the new heater that only uses about the same energy per hour as a coffee maker to help make heat bills hit rock bottom

PENNSYLVANIA – The Toll Free Hotlines are ringing off the hook.

That's because Philadelphia area residents who find the first two digits of their zip code listed in today's publication are getting brand new heaters that quickly put a stop to high heat bills forever.

But so many people are calling to get the new heaters it's nearly impossible to answer all the calls from Philadelphia area residents," said David O'Neill, General Manager of U.S. based Heat Surge.

"That's why we've asked the Metro Philadelphia to print the Heater Claim Form in today's publication so area residents can get the new heaters. The only thing residents need to do is return the Heater Claim Form to the right postmarked no later than 3 days from today's publication date to get the new heaters," said O'Neill.

Philadelphia area residents who get the new Heat Surge® Efficiency Plus™ Widescreen Touch heaters by calling the Toll Free Hotlines or returning the Heater Claim Form to the right before the 3-day order deadline ends will never have to pay high heat bills again.

Demand for Heat Surge heaters has skyrocketed ever since consumer reviews surfaced showing just how much money people are saving on heat bills which is why this announcement is being so widely advertised.

Here's how it works. The brand new Hybrid-Thermic® heater eliminates high heat bills and saves you a substantial amount of money by outsmarting your home thermostat. This little heating genius uses super advance Hybrid-Thermic heat technology to keep the actual temperature in any room a bone-soothing 74° so you'll never be cold again.

But here's the real miracle. It keeps you that warm even when your home thermostat is turned clear down to 59°. That means you'll save a substantial amount of money on heat bills with this zone heating because your furnace rarely ever kicks on since the Heat Surge Hybrid-Thermic heater keeps the actual room temperature a constant 74°.

According to the avalanche of consumer reviews for the original Heat Surge heaters, people absolutely swear by them, repeatedly saying, "it saves money," "looks



■ **ON THEIR WAY:** New Heat Surge Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch heaters will soon be delivered to lucky Philadelphia area residents who beat the 3-day order deadline and live in one of the zip code areas listed in today's publication. Everyone's getting the upstairs-downstairs efficiency combo of two Heat Surge Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch heaters because they only use pennies an hour of electricity to drastically slash home heat bills.

beautiful," and "keeps you warm and cozy." That's why Philadelphia area residents will be scrambling to get them beginning at precisely 8:30am this morning.

And here's the best part. A 3-day Double Coupon has been reprinted in today's publication for readers to use.

By using this coupon, everyone who calls or returns the Heater Claim Form to the right is being rewarded with \$170 off. That makes this remarkable new heater a real steal at just \$189 and since it's a Double Coupon, it not only gives you a massive discount, but also entitles you to Free shipping and Free handling, too.

The new Efficiency Plus Wide-

screen Touch heater is totally safe to the touch and comes fully assembled with *Fireless Flame®* technology that gives you the peaceful flicker of a real fire but without any flames, fumes, ashes, or mess.

"People everywhere got off easy last winter, but everyone knows that freezing cold weather is right around the corner. And we all know that frigid cold temperatures mean skyrocketing heat bills," said O'Neill.

That's why everyone is rushing to get the new Heat Surge Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch heaters.

Readers are authorized to use the 3-day Double Coupon more than once. But there is a catch. You can

only get away with it for the next three days by calling the Toll Free Hotline or returning the Heater Claim Form printed here before the deadline ends.

"To make sure everyone gets their new Heat Surge Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch heater before the harsh winter weather hits, UPS® drivers have been instructed to make home deliveries anywhere in the United States," O'Neill said.

The Toll Free Hotlines are extremely busy. Residents who can not get through just need to return the Heater Claim Form printed here postmarked by midnight 3 days from today's publication date. ■

(continued on next page)

Who Gets the Heaters: Listed below are the zip codes that get the new heaters. If you find the first two digits of your zip code listed below immediately call **1-888-831-7067 Ext.10232**

AK 99	CT 06	IA 50, 51, 52	LA 70, 71	MO 63, 64, 65	NH 03	OH 41, 43, 44, 45	SC 29	VT 05
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AR 71, 72	DE 19	IL 60, 61, 62	MD 20, 21	MT 59	NM 87, 88	OR 97	TN 37, 38	WI 53, 54
AZ 85, 86	FL 32, 33, 34	IN 46, 47	ME 03, 04	NC 27, 28	NV 88, 89	PA 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	TX 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 88	WV 24, 25, 26
CA N/A	GA 30, 31, 39	KS 66, 67	MI 48, 49	ND 58	NY 00, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	RI 02	UT 84	WY 82, 83
CO 80, 81	HI 96	KY 40, 41, 42	MN 55, 56	NE 68, 69			VA 20, 22, 23, 24	

(continued from previous page)

How It Works: It outsmarts your home thermostat and gives you 74° of bone-soothing room heat even when your thermostat is turned down to 59°

Both Home Thermostats set at 59°



ZONE HEATING SLASHES HEAT BILLS: Notice how the home thermostat is set at 59°. The left shows the new Heat Surge Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch heater blanketing the whole room with 74° of warmth.

Everyone is sick and tired of paying high heat bills. That's why smart consumers are rushing to get the brand new Heat Surge Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch heaters. They eliminate high heat bills and save you a substantial amount of money by outsmarting your home thermostat.

Here's how it works. This little heating genius uses super advance Hybrid-Thermic heat technology to keep the actual temperature in any room a bone-soothing 74° so you'll never be cold again. But here's the real miracle. It keeps you that warm even when your home thermostat is turned clear down to 59°. That means you'll save a substantial amount of money on heat bills with this zone heating because your

furnace rarely ever kicks on since the Heat Surge Hybrid-Thermic heater keeps the actual room temperature a constant 74°.

This modern marvel engineered, built and imported from the mecca of cutting edge technology in the Far East uses just a trickle of electricity to save you money based on a U.S. average that says it uses just pennies of electricity an hour, yet it produces up to an amazing 3,685 British Thermal Units (BTUs) delivering a full 1,200 watts on the standard setting. The ultra portable Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch is just 17.18" W x 9.75" H x 6.62" D and comes fully assembled so when it arrives, all you do is just plug it in.

To Use This Coupon: Call the Toll Free Hotlines or return the Heater Claim Form below by midnight 3 days from today's publication date

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TO USE THIS COUPON: To get the new Heat Surge Efficiency Plus Widescreen Touch for just \$189 you must call the Toll Free Hotline at: **1-888-831-7067 Ext.10232** before the deadline ends.

THE TOLL FREE HOTLINES ARE EXTREMELY BUSY. IF YOU CAN NOT GET THROUGH RETURN THE FORM BELOW

RETURN THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT 3 DAYS FROM TODAY'S PUBLICATION DATE		Send To: Heat Surge Distribution Center 8000 Freedom NW North Canton, OH 44720
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They are just fantastic!

"I have never been as pleased with anything in my entire life as I am with my heaters. I live alone and my cat and I just adore them."

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I like my Heat Surge fireplace.

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*Unsolicited consumer feedback from satisfied customers, as reported to Heat Surge, LLC. With zone heating, users can turn down the home thermostat and use the fireplace to heat only the room being used. Actual savings will vary depending on factors such as local climate, local energy costs, system settings, home construction and individual usage. Heat Surge rated these customer reviews 5 stars.

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Ethics

Two California firefighters dismissed, 13 punished in probe

Two California firefighters were dismissed and 13 others punished, following an investigation into a former fire chief, accused of stabbing his fiancée to death and then going on the run for two weeks, officials said on Thursday.

Police say Orville "Moe" Fleming confessed to stabbing his live-in girlfriend, Sarah Douglas, at their Sacramento home. He was arrested last May and was charged with murder.

After Fleming's estranged wife said that firefighters were having sex with prostitutes at the state fire academy, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection asked the California Highway Patrol to launch an ethics investigation.

The accusations about prostitutes were found

to be baseless, Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said on Thursday, but the probe uncovered unrelated cases of employees violating departmental policies, ranging from dishonesty to the misuse of state equipment and the misuse of state time.

Berlant said 16 employees had been placed on administrative leave since the end of December. Two of them were terminated, he said in a statement, one resigned, and 13 face punishments that include suspension, demotion, and pay cuts.

The Cal Fire director, Chief Ken Pimlott, said the investigation brought to light the actions of a few individuals who had violated the public's trust.

The highway patrol's probe began after Fleming, who was a Cal Fire battalion chief, led police on a two-week manhunt after they discovered Douglas' body.

He was eventually arrested by a detective who spotted him getting off a bus in South Sacramento.

REUTERS

Quoted

"We are pursuing the disciplinary process to the furthest extent allowed ... This type of behavior will not be tolerated."

Chief Pimlott said in a statement



Orville Fleming / SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OMG! Empire strikes back: Stormtrooper costume saves man from deadly snake bite

A Star Wars fan has been saved from a poisonous snake bite thanks to his Stormtrooper costume. Scott Loxley, who is raising money for charity by walking around Australia disguised as a desert stormtrooper from the classic sci-fi epic, claimed he was attacked by a King Brown snake near Yalboroo in Queensland. The daring do-gooder from Greensborough in Victoria, who began his trek around Australia in 2013, tells Metro about his close encounter with the snake.

Why are you walking around Australia in a Stormtrooper costume?

It not only raises awareness for the Monash Children's Hospital in Melbourne, but also allows the kids in the hospital to follow the Stormtrooper on his travels while their treatments are ongoing.

Why did you pick a Stormtrooper outfit?

I am a member of the 501st Legion, an international not-for-profit Star Wars costuming organization that gives their time to raise much needed funds for various charities both in Australia and around the world.

And the costume saved



Scott in costume / SCOTT LOXLEY

you from a deadly snake?

I noticed a snake ahead of me on the side of the road in the grass. At the time I didn't think too much about it as I had seen dangerous snakes for days before. While passing, it raises its head and looked at me. It was a King Brown! I was only 15 centimeters from it when I realized I was in trouble. The snake struck at me and grabbed onto the back of my right calf; I could feel its teeth scraping against the shin armor. I looked down at my leg waiting to feel the hot sensation of the venom. But the snake's teeth did not penetrate the armor.



Visit us online at Metro.us/omg for more interviews.

What happened next?

I looked over at the trolley to see where the snake was lying. I moved left and so did he. I moved right and so did he. The King Brown was tracking me and that he didn't finish. He was by far the most aggressive

Question

How much further will you be walking?

I have been walking for over a year now and have about five months to go. It should take in total 18 months.

snake I have ever come across. I continued to keep the trolley between us and slowly moved it away from him. After about 20 seconds or so he turned around and moved off back into the cane field. DMITRY BELYAEV, METRO WORLD NEWS

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Once contractions start

Don't fight the pain

When contractions kick in, one of the worst things you can do is clench up. Resisting the pain and wishing it away is actually a sure-fire way to experience more of it.

"With my first labor, I found the pain and was scared if it," says Katie, who adds that a positive labor experience is all about surrender. "With my second, I realized there was no way to fight it, and just surrendered to the pain. The difference was tremendous."

In my own experience, yielding to the pain served to greatly downplay its intensity. Chilling out also sped up my second delivery. (Only three hours passed between having my first contraction and holding my daughter in my arms.) But be prepared; Experts say that a first-time labor typically lasts around 18 hours.

Tips for a happy, easy natural birth

Pregnancy. Don't let pain or drugs ruin your delivery.

If you're pregnant and planning a natural birth, the idea of labor and delivery can be a terrifying one. This is especially true if it's your first time around. During my first drug-free delivery, the pain was more intense than I'd ever imagined.

I approached my second delivery with a sense of redemption. This time, I was determined to have a positive, drug-free birth. After reading up on the hypnobirthing approach, my whole perspective on natural childbirth changed for the better. The kicker was that I went into it feeling

empowered, and the attitude shift definitely paid off — my second daughter came into this world by way of a calm, gentle delivery.

Katie the Wellness Mama, who's had five natural births, knows a thing or two about unmedicated deliveries. Read on for three practical tips.

Focus on your breathing

Short, altered breathing is very different from the way you breathe when you're calm and relaxed. During my first delivery, shallow, nervous breathing only triggered more fear and more pain.

"As a mom who has been through labor five times, and also as a doula, I've learned that the best



Hypnobirthing focuses on specific breathing techniques. / ISTOCK

type of the breathing in labor is the one that works best for your body, and you intuitively know what it is," says Katie. "It's just important to remember to breathe and to try to keep it slow, relaxing and rhythmic."

The hypnobirthing approach focuses on specific

breathing techniques to coincide with the different phases of labor. According to Lamaze experts, conscious breathing reduces heart rate, anxiety and pain perception.

MARIANNE HAYES
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Work with gravity

Get moving

While in labor with my second child, lying flat on my back felt counter-intuitive. All I wanted to do was move around. It makes sense considering that moving freely during labor has been shown to reduce labor time and improve pain management. For Katie, it's as simple as taking advantage of gravity.

"Labor is tough work; why not let gravity make it a little easier?" she says. "In my own experience, my labors where I walked, swayed, bounced and squatted were shorter and much more comfortable than the labor where I was confined to a bed."

According to the National Institutes of Health, walking or moving around during labor allows the uterus to work more efficiently. Changing positions also helps move the pelvis, which supports the baby's transition into the birth canal.

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CULTURE

Music

Back in action

Why was Lopez absent from movie screens in 2014? "For me, it's just about what feels right at the time, and I was very in music land last year," she explains.

And besides, she's making up for lost time. "I'll do two movies this year. I'll do a series this year. I'll do 'American Idol' this year," she says. "I'll do a lot of different things that we already have planned. I just go with what feels right at the time."



Jennifer Lopez tries to resist the advances of a ripped teenager (Ryan Guzman) in "The Boy Next Door." / UNIVERSAL PICTURES

The Hopeless Romantic

Interview. Jennifer Lopez found the sex scenes in 'The Boy Next Door' not exactly so dreamy.

Jennifer Lopez is into guilty pleasures. And we don't mean her latest film, the steamy thriller "The Boy Next Door," where the 45-year-old plays an English teacher who succumbs to the advances of her neighbor's hot young nephew (Ryan Guzman). As you can imagine, it doesn't go very well from there.

"I prefer romantic comedies," says the actress, who has starred in films less fraught with tension such as "The Wedding Planner" or "The Back-Up Plan."

"They're just fun. You're

Quoted

"It's a very vulnerable position to be in. It's not something you ever get used to."

Jennifer Lopez, on doing love scenes

just seeing how silly you can make things. They're romantic and I'm a hopeless romantic as well."

That's not to say the Golden-Globe nominee doesn't push herself creatively. "Being more dramatic or being more tough or being more vulnerable — it's all the same. It's all about trying to find the reality in the moment, making it real. All of a sudden I have this high-pitched scream that I've never heard myself do, and that's when I know I'm tapping into something real."

Another challenge of the role was the extremely intimate sex scene that sets the craziness of the plot in motion.

"Scenes like that are always uncomfortable," she says. "It's a very vulnerable position to be in. It's not something you ever get used to as an actress."

Comfort level can't always be the priority, though, especially when so much of the story depends on a steamy scene.

"This was a very important scene in this film. If that scene didn't work — if it wasn't intense, passionate, real enough — then the rest of the movie doesn't make any sense because that's the moment that they share together," she says.

"The Boy Next Door" also gave Lopez some insight into independent filmmaking.

"We got it made on a micro-budget of \$4 million in 25 days," she reveals. "I never had done a film like that in my career. But it was very liberating as an artist because it made me realize, I can make whatever movie I want, like this. It's the material that really matters. It's like, 'Do I feel like doing this at this time?' and not waiting for a big studio to green-light something or hire you as an actress. It really is very empowering."



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Looking back

Lopez's own boy next door

So how much does art imitate life? Or at least, how much did the crazy story of "The Boy Next Door" resonate with the actress-singer's own life? Not that much, thankfully. Lopez happily reports that her own experiences have been much more sedate and age-appropriate. "Actually, my first boyfriend was the boy next door," she remembers. "It was the summer I turned 14. He was cute. Cute enough, I guess, at the time."

But what about the flip side of the film, when the cute enough boy next door becomes a deranged stalker? Happily, that's something she's never encountered. "I've had people kind of obsessed with me, but not like obsessed in a dangerous, scary way," she says. "No, thank God. I've never had to deal with anything like that."



Lopez

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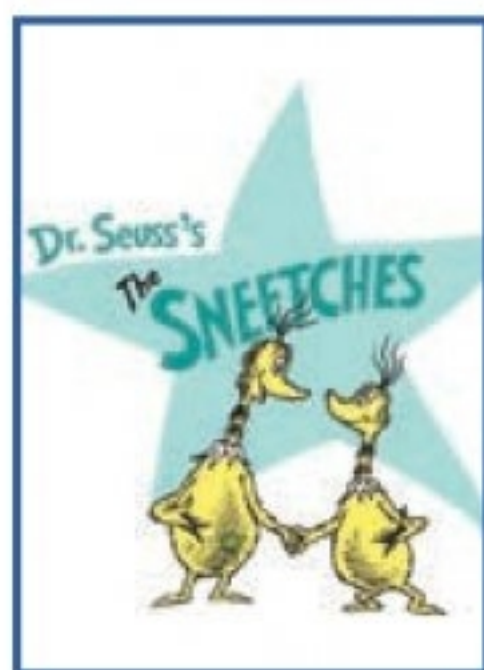
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FILM 18



Ryan Guzman is sort of into Jennifer Lopez in "The Boy Next Door." / SUZANNE HANOVER

Trash movie. Jennifer Lopez is pretty OK in new lackluster thriller 'The Boy Next Door'

"Fatal Attraction" gets spliced with the "Hot for Teacher" video in this thriller, in which Jennifer Lopez's unlikely educator briefly gives into the seductions of a ripped, "Iliad"-loving 19-year-old (Ryan Guzman, 27), who turns out to be a psycho.

The lowdown: In 1998, after her turn in "Out of Sight," it seemed perfectly sane to wish that up-and-coming actress Jennifer Lopez would become a big star. That good will quickly curdled over a series of wan movies and calculated career moves. But believe it or not, there are instances in the trash-o-rama that is "The Boy Next Door"

where one can see, not a great Lopez performance but a pretty good one.

She gives her character a subtle depth of real feeling — sometimes. Other times she can't do anything to salvage the crap around her, and doesn't try.

Of course, this is one of those casually misogynist scarefests, where a woman is punished for her lust. Most of Noah's pranks are more giggle-inducing than menacing, as is his penchant for double entendres. ("It got pretty wet here." Hello, nurse!) In fact, there's the faint trace that the filmmakers know they're making camp, that their film is playing to the au-

Review

'The Boy Next Door'

Director: Rob Cohen

Stars: Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman

Rating: R

• • • • •

dience's desire to snicker at it. The over-the-top climax would bear that out, but the lazy shrug with which it concludes confirms that it's closer to simple, anonymous, dreary hackwork. **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'Two Days, One Night'

• • • • •

Few artists are as reliably unchanging as Belgian social realists Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne ("Kid with a Bike"). What makes their latest effort slightly better? It's not just the presence of A-listers Marion Cotillard, as a

woman who finds that budget cuts have led to her bosses forcing her co-workers to make a choice: Lose her or their substantial annual bonuses. Her scrambling about expresses the directors' usual ethical and moral clarity. But there's also an emotional directness that's rare for them, even if it doesn't change up their peerless shtick. **MP**



Marion Cotillard leads "Two Days, One Night." / IFC FILMS

Review

'Strange Magic'

• • • • •



Evan Rachel Wood voices a fairy in "Strange Magic." / LUCASFILM

A 15-yearlong passion project for George Lucas, this animated musical turns a very loosely adapted "A Midsummer Night's Dream" into a love story between a fairy and a hid-

eous villain with a heart of gold, while they sing everything from Elvis to ELO. It's grating yet also admirable, in theory, up to a point. Like "Frozen," it doesn't reassert patriarchal norms, allowing the female to fall for the interesting guy, not the handsome prince. But it's still annoying. **MP**

Alzheimer's movie. The Julianne Moore-starring 'Still Alice' is one of the saddest films ever made

Julianne Moore plays Alice, a noted linguist professor who discovers that her occasional lapses in memory are actually a by-product of early-onset Alzheimer's and that she will slowly lose all of her considerable mental faculties.

The lowdown: There are few rougher sits than "Still Alice." Not only is it an Alzheimer's movie; it's a movie where you watch Julianne Moore, at her most lovable, succumb to slow mental deterioration. It's tempting to read it as little more than an old school TV movie, only stocked with fine actors. Then again, it's also tempting to give in and forgive its stray issues, especially as that position allows one to notice a subtler and tougher film than was necessary. "Still Alice" throws in the big moments — her putting shampoo in the fridge, repeatedly introduc-



Julianne Moore, center, is at her most lovable as an Alzheimer's sufferer in "Still Alice." / SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

ing herself to the same visitor, not recognizing a daughter — but underplays them. Most of the time it observes the less dramatic in-between moments, when Alice can feel herself slipping but tries to carry on. She mocks the disease, sometimes ignores it. Not since Jeff Goldblum succumbed to a purely sci-fi disease in "The Fly" has watching a great actor gradually lose it all been so gutting. **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'Still Alice'

Directors: Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland

Stars: Julianne Moore, Kristen Stewart

Rating: PG-13



Review

'Cake'



Jennifer Aniston takes on the role of Claire, a woman with scars that came from a tragedy revealed gradually throughout the film, which mostly shows her being a jerk to everyone, including her Mexican maid (Adriana Barraza).

The lowdown: In "Cake," Aniston engages in a wellworn cliché: depreting herself for awards — or, as it turned out, mostly awards buzz. It's a craven career move, especially as she's already proven her chops by simply being good in "The Good Girl" and "Friends with Money." But an actorly stunt is the least of "Cake"'s problems. A sour, one-note dirge, it mistakes unrelenting self-pity for honesty, stewing in the pain of someone stewing in pain, and as oblivious to the misery of others as its self-involved, blinkered protagonist can be.

"Cake" nimbly avoids



Jennifer Aniston plays an unhappy woman dealing with tragedy and her own sourness in "Cake." CINELOU RELEASING

certain indie clichés; when she makes friends with a quietly sad sack widower (Sam Worthington), one expects a romance to flower. It doesn't happen. But then little does happen in "Cake" apart from Claire toggling between withering sarcasm and deep self-pity. Every time she seems to have gone too far into being unlikable, her back pain crops up again, or we learn just a little bit more about the unimaginable accident/tragedy that destroyed her life — a pointless narrative striptease that leads to an anticlimax, on top of some unearned sympathy. **MP**

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Julianne Moore is heading for an Oscar

Film. The 'Still Alice' star could finally earn her Academy Award, as long as she doesn't bum everyone out along the way.

Julianne Moore's devastating performance in "Still Alice" — as a college professor diagnosed with a rare form of Alzheimer's shortly after her 50th birthday — has already earned her a Golden Globe and countless critical accolades, but can it get her that one trophy that has so far eluded her over her

impressive film career? Moore has been nominated for an Oscar four times — two of them coming in the same year — but still doesn't have a little gold statue of her own.

While Moore's performance is a standout, it's a good thing Academy voters didn't watch the heart-breaking film with the actress herself in the room. "My husband and I saw it together, and I hadn't seen any of it," Moore says. "I heard all these sounds, I thought, 'What the hell? What's that noise?' And he was just sobbing."

"So then I started talking, and he went, 'Don't ruin it!' So I had to be quiet for about 20 minutes



JULIANNE MOORE
WIREIMAGE



Julianne Moore gets all existential on us about "Still Alice." / JOJO WHILDEN

before I could be like, 'Well, I wish that I had done this differently ...'"

Screening room etiquette aside, Moore also might not be the best cocktail party companion at the moment, as delving into the heart-wrenching role has left her with some heavy thoughts. "What do we have, really? It's all a construct," Moore offers, hands waving in front of her.

"Someone said, I can't remember who, 'We don't have to do any-

thing, all we have to do is die.' It's the only requirement. Other than that, we've made it all up. We made up language and we made up literature, we've made up work; and all this stuff, it's all a construct. We do it because it delights us, it fascinates us. We found an economic system within it. But what is it, any of it?"

At the end of the day there's just us as beings, so ... I don't know. I don't mean to get all down about everything."

She doesn't mean to, but she can't really help it.

Next up

Not afraid to make you cry

Moore doesn't see things getting much more uplifting. Up next for her? "I'm doing another really kind of fun movie," Moore says with a chuckle. "In this one I die of cancer. I'm not kidding."



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A Brit in the Revolution

Interview. Ben Barnes brought some British flavor to his portrayal of Samuel Adams.

While we may be used to the men whose faces adorn our dollar bills and favorite beer, there was a time before they became legends. In "Sons of Liberty," a three-night mini-series airing on History, audiences get a glimpse of Sam Adams and John Hancock when they were two young, very different men. Adams (Ben Barnes) was a hard-drinking local with a tragic past, while Hancock (Rafe Spall) was a pampered smuggler uninterested in the rebel cause. We talked to Barnes about what it's like for a Brit to play an American revolutionary.

How much did you know about Sam Adams before taking the role on?

I didn't know anything, basically. I'd watched the "John Adams" series on HBO a couple of years before, but that character wasn't really heavily featured. I felt like I knew John Adams, and was confused about whether it was the same person. I knew

Bonus question

Action star

Did you get to do any of your own stunts?

There was one really cool move, where I was to leap off a rooftop and grab this flagpole with a Union Jack on it and swing around and land and I really wanted to do it and I said, it's not that high, I can do it! And they said no, you have to let the stunt double do it. And he did it, ran off, grabbed onto the flag pole and it immediately snapped and he fell to the ground. It wasn't very far and he was fine, but I was like, ah, actually it's good that they didn't let me do it.

he was on the beer. I'd drunk the beer and it was too bitter for me. I think when they teach history in British classrooms, we kind of gloss over anything that's the fall of the empire. [Laughs] So if we lose a colony, that's not something you want to dwell on.

Was it weird to film something like this as a Brit?

There was a little bit of jibing that happened in the beginning. There's a very cool kind of "Ocean's Eleven" type heist in it where we heist this gun powder silo and we dress up as redcoats, as British soldiers, and it was the only costume I didn't need a fitting for! It just fit perfectly, and I was waltzing around all day, just showing off in my red coat, telling people just how great I looked in it, and wasn't red my color. So that was really fun to do.

Where did you film?

We were exclusively in Bucharest in Romania. ... We actually filmed some of the battle scenes on the field where Vlad the Impaler impaled his victims, so that had a creepy vibe.



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TV watch list

DRAMA

'Hart of Dixie'

Good news for Zoe and Wade fans: The duo might make a little progress on their relationship this week. Work it out, you two crazy kids!

FRIDAY, 8 P.M., CW

COMEDY

'Saturday Night Live'

Pulling double duty this Saturday is "The Voice" judge Blake Shelton, who will be the host and musical guest. How many insults to Adam Levine do you think he'll fit in?

SATURDAY, 11:30 P.M., NBC

'Galavant'

ABC's musical medieval comedy (that might be a new genre) concludes its season with the big duel you've been waiting for. Will Galavant win out in the end? Will you ever get the Galavant song out of your head? We're



Technically, this Wade moment might be from next week's episode, but we're devoted to bringing our readers the best publicity stills. MIKE YARISH / THE CW

guessing yes to the first, no to the second. **SEASON FINALE, SUNDAY, 8 P.M., ABC**

MOVIE

'Crazy, Stupid, Love'

We hate to say a movie is worth it just for one scene, but this movie is worth it just for the Emma Stone/Ryan Gosling flirtation scene, which is all kinds of adorable. **SUNDAY, 7 P.M., TBS**

LISA WEIDENFELD

Stormy waters ahead

Interview. Hannah New says Eleanor Guthrie will face some tough times in Season 2 of "Black Sails."

Eleanor Guthrie ended the first season of Starz's pirate drama, "Black Sails," in a bit of a bad situation. The unpredictable Captain Vane (Zach McGowan) had taken over the fort in Nassau, and her ally, Captain Flint (Toby Stephens), was away at sea in search of a possibly fictional treasure. But don't expect life to get much easier on her, says the actress who plays Eleanor, Hannah New.

"You find her at rock bottom at the beginning of this season," she says. "You can't really imagine that things can get much worse. Everything's falling apart for her. By the end of this season, you realize that the rock bottom is even deeper than you could ever have imagined."

New says that Season 2 will be taking a more global look at the world of piracy, from policy in Europe to what it really means when the show's various pirates succeed at their schemes. "You realize this isn't just



"Black Sails" returns Saturday at 9 p.m. on Starz.
STARZ ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

about gold and money, it's about political alliances, and I think that's why the show takes on a completely different dimension in Season 2," says New.

Eleanor will also face real danger in the form of Captain Vane. "She's playing a very dangerous game with Vane, thinking that she has all the political power, but not really realizing that the brawn and physical power that he has is going to prevent her making the right decisions and it's going to prevent her from having the security she needs," says New. "Her life is in threat throughout Season 2."

But if you enjoy Eleanor's ability to read people out, complete with plenty of choice curse

words, don't worry: She still gets to have it out. Something New enjoys. "I love it, I really do. A lot of the fun of it is just connecting with that pure rant, connecting with wanting to let loose and let everything off your chest, and that's what Eleanor does so well. She doesn't suffer fools, and she is going to say exactly what she thinks," says New.

Frenemy time

No kissing and making up

One of Eleanor's sources of conflict in the first season was the ebb and flow of her relationship with Max (Jessica Parker Kennedy), but the duo won't be on particularly good terms this season. "Max becomes very intricately linked with Eleanor, but she becomes an arch-nemesis," says Hannah New.

"That was her closest relationship. That was the place where she could be the most vulnerable and most open," New goes on. "Once that was severed, she realized how much she gave away in that relationship and maybe she underestimated Max's ability to use that information. That's going to be the biggest shock for Eleanor."



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Matt McAndrew covered a wide range of singing styles on "The Voice," from gospel to The Beach Boys. / NBC/UNIVERSAL

Bringing the 'Voice' home

Onstage. Matt McAndrew shows off his versatility, and his tattoos, at World Cafe Live.

Sometimes not winning is the best thing that can happen — at least on TV singing competitions. Jennifer Hudson finished seventh on "American Idol" in 2004 and later won an Academy Award; Jacquie Lee finished second on "The Voice" in 2013, and she became a breakout star with an Atlantic Records deal.

Now comes Philly's Matt McAndrew, who fin-

ished second on the just-completed season of "The Voice."

"Going into this process, I was just hoping to get on one or two episodes for the exposure," McAndrew, 24, says. "Just to make it to the finals is incredible as far as I'm concerned. It's an amazing platform. I have so much love for the show and everybody who works on it, I'm just excited about everything that's gone down."

McAndrew, who was coached by Adam Levine of Maroon 5, was beat by country stud Craig Wayne Boyd. But not before McAndrew demonstrated an impressive versatility on the show. His original "Wasted Love" soared on gospel

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Matt McAndrew

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wings, he delivered the pensive pop of Coldplay's "Fix You" and he channeled the voice of the late Carl Wilson on The Beach Boys' classic, "God Only Knows."

"If I were making a record I wouldn't be able to cover such a broad scope [of styles] because it would be really be in-cohesive,

but in the setting of the show it was really cool," McAndrew says. "It was fun for me to show different sides of myself."

No matter which side, it's probably covered with a tattoo.

"I get a lot of work done at Olde City Tattoo [by] Joey Knuckles," McAndrew says. "Obviously, I'm always down to get some more work done."

McAndrew, a Jersey Shore transplant who moved to the city to study at the University of the Arts, plays a sold-out, hometown show Friday at World Cafe Live.

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What he thinks, but won't say out loud

Sometimes, men just get frustrated. They can't understand some issues women go through. While my advice is to always be honest and straight up with your partner — and have the hard conversations — some men don't feel safe bringing up issues that could cause confrontation.

I asked 500 men what they wish they had the guts bring up in conversation with their wives/girlfriends. Here are the top five:

5 "Don't use my past mistakes against me. I'm human. I screw up just like you do."

It's a common lament from men: "You always bring things up from two years ago!" Granted, someone who only apologizes and doesn't change is not only irritating — it's detrimental to the relationship. However, reminding someone over and over about their mistakes breeds resentment.

Solution: Take the time to work through the issue the



Create an atmosphere where you and your partner can be honest with each other. / iStock

first time. If he habitually is inconsiderate and/or keeps doing the same things, discuss it rationally.

4 "When you ask me a question and want the truth, don't get angry at me when I tell you straight. That creates a no-win situation for me."

He would love to tell you what he thinks. Depending on the subject matter, however, it might just be a trap. "Does this dress make me look fat?" is a classic no-win.

Solution: Create an atmosphere when honesty can reign. If you are a couple

that cares about each other, even the hardest questions can be safe.

3 "It's okay if you take charge in the bedroom sometimes. It might help me loosen up and not be so inhibited or embarrassed."

He has a lot of things/fantasies in his head, but he

For exclusive commentary, visit Metro.us/blogs.

might be too embarrassed to share them right away — or maybe ever.

Solution: A woman that shows and tells what she wants is a huge turn-on.

2 "I worry about all kinds of things. I don't share them because I don't want you to think I'm weak or that I can't handle it."

Solution: Tell him that you're there for both of you. The Key: Don't judge.

1 "Please, for the love of God, tell me what you want. Say it straight." A man wants the woman he loves to be happy.

Solution: Be up-front with what you want and what you need. He'll make the effort, and when he does reinforce it with positive affirmations.

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1 Zedd Instagrams Selena Gomez in bed

This should do plenty to calm those pesky dating rumors plaguing Selena Gomez and Zedd. Gomez and the elfin music producer have been working together, but rumors quickly started cropping up that their partnership is a bit more personal than that. And the photo he posted to Instagram of Gomez in bed, in a bra, laughing during a FaceTime session with him, is only fueling those rumors.

Now, I'll admit this is my first real introduction to Zedd, and while his name suggests he's some sort of Bizarro World foe



"Oh hi derrling ..." / ZEDD / INSTAGRAM

that I must defeat, the fact that he's referencing the terrible cult classic movie "The Room" instantly makes me like him. The caption of the photo is an attempt at a phonetic read-

ing of one of director/star Tommy Wiseau's greetings — "Oh hi derrling ..." — and properly explains Gomez's laughter in the photo. Hey, maybe she has good taste after all.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.



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2 Two Marvel stars make an awesome Super Bowl bet



Two of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's reigning heroes, Chris Evans of "Captain America" and "Guardians of the Galaxy" star Chris Pratt, have taken their hometown pride and NFL rivalry and turned it into something positive. Boston native and Patriots fan Evans started the taunting off by pointing out that he and Washington state-bred Pratt would have to be enemies for the next two weeks, but the smack talk quickly evolved into a rather noble bet. "Seahawks win, you fly yourself to Seattle, visit [Seattle's Children's] hospital as Captain America,

waving the 12th man flag," Pratt wagered, to which Evans replied, "I accept. And when the Patriots humiliate your sea-chickens, I expect Star-Lord to arrive at [Boston area children's cancer treatment center Christopher's Haven] in a Brady jersey."

Pratt couldn't resist getting in one last very topical burn: "Humiliate my Seahawks? Maybe talk to Brady about deflating your expectations. BOOM!" By the way, the other Marvel Chris, "Thor" star Chris Hemsworth, is Australian and likely has no idea what these two are on about.



GETTY IMAGES

3 Katy Perry dominates YouTube view counts



220,387,594 of you saw the video for "This Is How We Do."
KATYPERRYVEVO / YOUTUBE

If you were watching anything music-related on YouTube last year, there's a good chance it was Katy Perry. Her channel was the most-watched on the video site among musicians, pulling in nearly 2.4 billion

views last year. So this whole Super Bowl half-time thing totally makes sense. Three of her videos alone — "Dark Horse," "This Is How We Do" and "Birthday" — were responsible for 1.2 billion of those views.

Daily video



Poor Johnny Depp. Before "Pirates," he was cool.
SCREEN JUNKIES / YOUTUBE

Honest Trailers finally roasts 'Pirates of the Caribbean'

Just in time for the release of Johnny Depp's latest, "Mortdecai," the folks at Screen Junkies are doling out the Honest Trailer treatment for the entire "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise. While there's

plenty of ire tossed toward the film series itself — more than 10 hours of movies based on a theme park ride? — most of the ire is saved for Depp himself. "One hit franchise will usher in the end of his creative choices, turning him into a boring parody of himself. But who cares? He owns a f—ing island now," the guy with the trailer voice offers.

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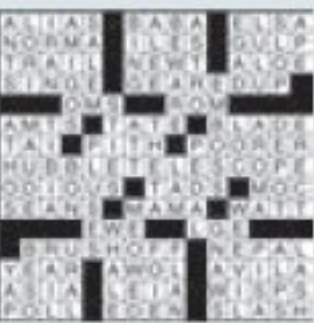
Letters to the editor

Obscuring
the issue

Re: 'No justice for some' (Metro, Jan. 22) Letter writer John McLaughlin wrote asking where is Al Sharpton's response to the killing of two white women by four black men in Florida. There is no need for a response. These men should and will be prosecuted. These four men were not policemen charged with killing the very people they were paid to protect. Further, unlike the white community, the black community will not make excuses for these men's outrageous crime. The black community will not blame the victims. The black community will WANT these men to go to jail. **BENJAMIN MONTGOMERY**

Re: 'No justice for some' (Metro, Jan. 22) If Al Sharpton is a "race-baiter" what is Metro reader John McLaughlin? Mr. McLaughlin criticizes the lack of media coverage of the brutal murder of a mother and her daughter by four African-American men in Florida. How does this do anything to move us toward racial healing? While the world marched, mourned, mobilized and decried the senseless killing of innocent people by terrorists in France, there has been hardly a mention of the slaughter of 2,000 people in Nigeria by terrorists on Jan. 3. If I were as cynical or race-obsessed as Mr. McLaughlin, I would assert this silence was because those civilians were African and not white European or Jewish. Watch your back, Al: You have competition. **LARRY D FOWLER, VIA EMAIL**

Thursday's answer

A NATION ALL
ABOUT THAT GAS

Opinion

TOM
FOREMANPOLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
FOR CNN

I don't understand economics. Kind of like I don't understand how microwaves work, why people keep up with the Kardashians, or how the Packers lost that game. But all my experience tells me that the No. 1 reason folks feel better about the economy is gas prices.

Make no mistake, the economy is improving. The unemployment rate is down, the markets are up, and apparently the Patriots are controlling inflation. Admittedly wages are still lagging, many people are underemployed, and workforce participation is considerably down. Still, there are plenty of reasons for people to feel more optimistic about the economy.

And they do, but most of the positive signs are lurking where we don't see them every day. Unless you are buying or selling a house, your home value is probably not something you think about. Stocks going up and down affect savings and pension funds, but if you're not buying a boat that's also backseat matter. So those types of issues have done little to drive hope in economically strapped households.

However, more than 200 million Americans are licensed to drive (although judging from D.C. traffic, many should not be) and the average driver covers around 37 miles a day. Do you know how often that means she must fill up her Mini Cooper? Neither do I, but it sounds like a lot. Every time those little numbers on the pump start clicking, she sees one clear measure of the cost of living. And gas prices are down close to 40 percent from last spring. If that lasts, our lady at the pump could save about \$700 dollars this year. That's equal to the GDP of Bolivia! Not quite. But you get my point.

Oddly, gas prices are part of the economy that D.C. can do almost nothing about. World markets, supply, demand ... those are the forces that control the cost. But after years of trying to dig out of the big recession, and being run over by voters angry over everything, lawmakers will take any good economic news they can find, and ride it until the wheels fall off.

CNN-POLITICS

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		9	1					5
		3		9		4	2	7
			7	6	2		1	
8								
	1		3		6		4	
								1
	7		2	8	3			
2	3	8		1		7		
4					5	2		

		2	4		6	5	1	
1							8	5
3					9			4
			6		2			
	7			9		1		8
					8		9	
	4				3			8
6		8						9
		7	4	1		5	6	

How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Confidence and tenacity will lead to achievement. A romantic encounter will not be as straightforward as you hope. Honesty is essential if you are looking for a partnership.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. You'll have trouble analyzing a situation if you don't get all the facts and figures. Don't rely on hearsay or speculation, and don't make assumptions.

Aries | March 21-April 20. If you are able to help someone out, it will end up benefiting you as well. Do whatever possible to form a close bond with friends as well as colleagues.

Taurus | April 21-May 21. Financial or health concerns will cause some difficulties if you haven't been diligent in the way you handle such matters. Review your personal paperwork and make the necessary adjustments.

Gemini | May 22-June 20. You will be able to outmaneuver the competition if you multitask and are determined. Any challenge you take on will contribute to your advancement.

Cancer | June 21-July 22. You will be acclaimed for choosing a unique approach to reach your goal. A collaborative effort will be successful once you take control and lead the way.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Building partnerships with clients who live in your community will be as fruitful as doing business with someone far away. The time saved networking locally will also save money.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Your reputation will be questioned if you exaggerate or embellish what you have to offer. If you want to be treated as a contender, present a realistic view of your skills and mindset.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. All eyes will be on you. Favorable attention will help you achieve what you have been working toward. Collaborative ventures will

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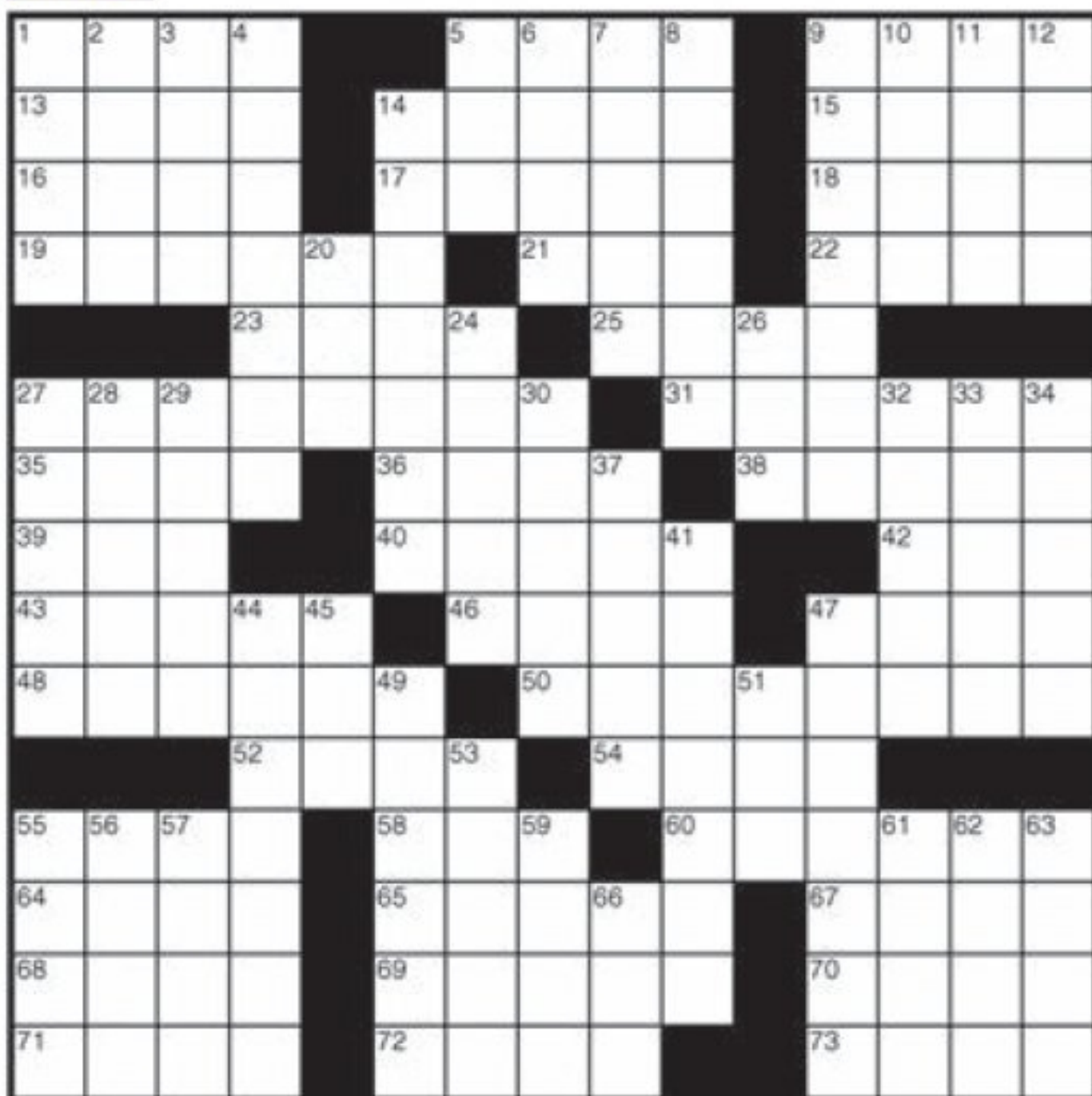
Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. You won't have a lot of time to make a critical decision. Close family members or the people you live with will be hard to get along with.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. A trip will bring surprising and beneficial

results. You will be better off if you distance yourself from anyone harboring unpredictable emotions that could lead to a heated confrontation.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Avoid anyone trying to push you against your will. You will be intrigued by something that will prove a viable venture. **EUGENIA LAST**

Crossword



Across

- 1 Que. or Ont.
- 5 Arm bone
- 9 Industrial giant
- 13 John and —
- 14 Winter constellation
- 15 Freeway clogger
- 16 Lunar valley
- 17 Send payment
- 18 Lowly laborer
- 19 On cloud nine
- 21 Jackie's second
- 22 Belief systems
- 23 Astronaut — Shepard
- 25 Nymph who pined away
- 27 Sillier
- 31 Football, abroad
- 35 Legend
- 36 Do perfectly
- 38 View from Giza
- 39 Take one's breath away

Down

- 40 Zeno follower
- 42 Oath
- 43 Asked out
- 46 Eight, in Milano
- 47 Triangle part
- 48 Foul-ups
- 50 In irons
- 52 S&L protector
- 54 Brownish tint
- 55 Mrs. Charles
- 58 Afore
- 60 Shout
- 64 Knighted Guinness
- 65 Change colors
- 67 High flier
- 68 — of passage
- 69 Stormed about
- 70 Type of eagle
- 71 Sorority member
- 72 Parson's exclamation
- 73 Like Beethoven

Down

- 1 Ceremonial fire
- 2 Churn up
- 3 Tex. neighbor
- 4 120 or 240
- 5 Ending for "depart"
- 6 City or bean
- 7 Bete —
- 8 Tomfoolery
- 9 Bland pudding
- 10 Hires a lawyer
- 11 Fermi split it
- 12 Ely and Howard
- 14 Decrees
- 20 Pipe bend
- 24 Marvy
- 26 Ad — committee
- 27 Spiky flowers
- 28 Waterloo resident
- 29 Garbo of film
- 30 Brawls

- 32 Courteous
- 33 Rust away
- 34 Heeded the cox
- 37 Not stiff
- 41 Worked for a ball club
- 44 Blotted out
- 45 Defective firework
- 47 Moved furtively
- 49 Saw-toothed ridge
- 51 — -Magnon man
- 53 — of the crop
- 55 DEA operative
- 56 Spicy stew
- 57 Nerve network
- 59 Perimeter
- 61 Onetime Trevi Fountain coins
- 62 Sicilian volcano
- 63 Scuba-diving site
- 66 Longing



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3

SPORTS

Tough road ahead

76ers face tough back-to-back

The Sixers will face two very uphill battles this weekend, as they host the talented Toronto Raptors Friday (a 7 p.m. start on CSN) and then hop on a plane to Tennessee to face one of the NBA's best in the Grizzlies (an 8 p.m. start) Saturday.

Phillies pitching prospects could contribute soon

MLB. The Phillies head into 2015 with an excess of young pitching talent in their farm system.

Though shortstop J.P. Crawford is rated as the Phillies' top prospect for the upcoming season, odds are the prospect who will reach Citizens Bank Park first is Aaron Nola — a 2014 first-round draft pick (seventh overall) last June. Nola, 21, will take part in his first big-league camp in less than a month and could begin the season in Triple-A Lehigh Valley.

"I'm excited about the potential opportunity,"

Nola said. "If I pitch well enough, at some point, I'll be here, which will be awesome."

Zach Eflin, 20, and Tom Windle, 22, a pair of big right-handed arms acquired in the Jimmy Rollins trade who could start the season in Double-A Reading, are well aware of the opportunity they have with this rebuilding franchise.

"It's exciting to be part of a franchise that is looking for young arms," Eflin said. "But I know that I have to pitch well to be considered. I'm just going to take it one game and one pitch at a time. But yes, I'm aware of where I can eventually reach."

Roman Quinn, 21, is one of the most intriguing prospects. Quinn, a

born burner, came back from a ruptured Achilles last season, somehow miraculously recovered his speed. His time from home to first is a ridiculous 3.96. Quinn, who could start the season at Double-A Reading, tore up the Arizona Fall League and is earning raves for his defensive work in center.

"I feel like I'm putting it all together," Quinn said. "I've had my share of injuries (he also suffered a broken wrist), but that's all behind me. I'm really excited about the future."

ED CONDRAN
@MetroPhilly
sports@metro.us



The Padres parted with one of their top prospects, Zach Eflin, as part of the deal that sent Jimmy Rollins to Los Angeles. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"How cool would it be if most or all of these guys in this room make a really big impact with the Phillies in three years? How cool would that be?"

Roman Quinn, a young Phillies pitcher, talking about he and his fellow prospects



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 Rear Seats, Captain's
 Chairs, Climate
 Control, Cruise
 Control

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 \$177/Month



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 Alloy Wheels, Dual Climate
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 MP3, Dual Subwoofer,
 Bluetooth, Climate
 Control, Sunroof, Roof
 Rack, Privacy Glass,
 Alloy Wheels

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 \$242/Month



2013 CHEVY IMPALA LTZ

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 Climate Control,
 Low Miles, Leather,
 Flex Fuel Efficient,
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 Down**

\$12,900,
 \$242/Month



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 4Wheel, Onstar,
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 Controls

58K

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 OnStar, Satellite Radio,
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 Leather Seats, OnStar,
 Alloy Wheels, Rear View
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 Climate Control

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 \$356/Month



2007 BMW X5 3.0Si AWD

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 Dual Subwoofers,
 Moonroof, Roof Rack,
 Alloy Wheels, Dual climate
 Control, Cruise Control,
 Leather, Run Flat Tires

**\$0
 Down**

\$19,900,
 \$356/Month



2010 AUDI Q7 3.6 PRESTIGE

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 Bluetooth, Privacy Glass, Alloy
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 4 Zone Climate Control,
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Should Sixers, fans be worried about Embiid?

NBA. The 76ers have seen red flags recently from their injured No. 3 overall pick.

Joel Embiid was listed at 250 pounds when the 76ers selected him with the No. 3 overall pick in the 2014 NBA draft.

As recently as five days ago, rumors swirled that Embiid's weight had escalated to 300 pounds.

Not long after the report surfaced in The Philadelphia Inquirer, Embiid denied the weight issue to CSNPhilly.com. But Embiid never did say what he weighed. This is a murky issue for the Sixers.

Embiid is unlikely to play at all this season while recovering from a stress fracture in his left foot.

If Embiid were healthy, he surely would have been the No. 1 overall pick. That's what the Sixers are expecting when the 2015-16 season rolls around.

The Inquirer noted that Embiid clashed with Sixers assistant strength and conditioning coach James Davis and recently sat out some conditioning



Embiid is not expected to play this season. / GETTY IMAGES

drills. That's not what the Sixers were expecting.

It's already been an extremely difficult season with eight wins and 34 losses, including a seven-point setback to the lowly New York Knicks on Wednesday night. Since Embiid isn't granting interviews, there is still quite a bit of gray area with this story. And there are usually three sides to every story as it is.

Embiid is the Sixers' future. He's the piece who could help turn them around.

Imagine Embiid, Nerlens Noel and Dario Saric in two to three years. If all three players continue to progress and improve, this has the chance to be a solid frontline for the next decade. But it can collapse just that quickly without Embiid in the middle. He's the key.

By the numbers

2.6

Embiid averaged an impressive 2.6 blocks per game last season for Kansas.

The 7-footer averaged 11.2 points and 8.1 rebounds to go along with 72 blocked shots on his way to becoming the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year as a freshman at Kansas.

Embiid's ability went way beyond the statistics.

In just his fourth season of playing organized basketball, he showed incredible instincts and footwork. He would have the uncanny knack of blocking shots without drawing fouls. He would know how to alter shots.

Embiid grew up playing soccer and volleyball.

Basketball came much later. The Sixers saw enough to take a chance.

"I think he'll fit great," Kansas coach Bill Self told reporters at the draft. "They already have another big guy in Nerlens Noel who hasn't played yet because of injury. I guarantee when they're both healthy, it won't be easy to score near the basket."

True. But the work started before the season and continues now. It will keep moving through April and into the summer.

Embiid is undeniably the key to the future here.

He needs to keep working and have positive reports come out of his camp. What's happening now is not good for anyone.

ANDY JASNER
@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

Bottom dollar

76ers value plummets

Last season, before much of the Sixers' rebuilding (or tanking) plan had come into fruition, the historic Philadelphia franchise was ranked as the No. 23 most

valued franchise in the NBA.

A year later, the Sixers, worth a reported \$700 million, is now rated by Forbes as No. 27. Philly is ahead of just three teams, Minnesota, New Orleans and Milwaukee.

The NBA, according to Forbes, has 11 franchises worth over a billion dollars with the average at \$1.1 billion. The top three teams are the Lakers (\$2.68 billion), Knicks (\$2.5 billion) and Chicago Bulls (\$2 billion). **METRO**

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Big 5 hoops



THE WILDCATS FACE YET
ANOTHER BIG EAST TEST.
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As March inches closer and closer, two big matchups highlight local Big 5 basketball action this weekend.

- **Creighton at Villanova:** The Wildcats suffered a pretty diabolical setback at Georgetown early this week, and have no respite as they host Big East foes the Bluejays Saturday night at 7 (on FoxSports1).
- **Penn at St. Joseph's:** Throw the records and conference affiliations out the window Saturday at 7 p.m. when the Quakers and Hawks tango at the Palestra. The Hawks look to stay hot while UPenn seeks an all-too-rare Big 5 victory.
- **Temple, La Salle:** The Owls and Explorers played Thursday night and will each have the weekend off. Temple looks to get their shooting troubles behind them as they travel to Central Florida next Wednesday. La Salle will have extra time to prep for an A-10 and Philly city showdown vs. St. Joes on Tuesday.

St. Joseph's Bembry is Philly's best-kept secret

NCAA. DeAndre Bembry is quietly having a thoroughly impressive season for the struggling Hawks.

It's hard not to notice St. Joseph's forward DeAndre Bembry.

At 6-foot-6, he has an afro like a young Julius Erving, stretching his height to 6-foot-9 or taller. Somehow, despite his unmistakable stature and style on the court, it's his play that keeps getting overlooked by the city of Philadelphia and in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

"We really need to start paying attention [to Bembry]," said Hawks coach Phil Martelli after Wednesday's 62-56 win over UMass (10-9, 3-3). "Look at these numbers. He had 25 points, eight rebounds, seven assists, five steals and three blocks."

Bembry scored the Hawks' (8-9, 2-4) first 13 second-half points on Wednesday, a night which included some impressive blocks and a no-look pass to set up a teammate for a layup at the very end of the stan-



Bembry is in the top three in scoring in the A-10. / GETTY IMAGES

za. On Sunday, he had a career-high 27 points in a 70-61 loss to St. Bonaventure. He believes the recognition he deserves will come soon enough.

"It doesn't matter to me," said Bembry, about the lack of recognition. "That comes with [winning]. I would like it to be [more], of course. I've been playing very well lately. I'm just trying to get wins for the team.

If you lose, [the stats] don't really matter. That's how I feel. If we keep winning, then maybe. That's how I've got to treat it."

As just a sophomore, Bembry is tied for third in the conference in scoring at 17.1 points per game. In strictly conference games he ranks first, averaging 20.2 points per game. He also ranks fourth in steals (2.0), 11th in rebounds (6.7)

and 12th in assists (3.1).

"If he was on a team that had 13 or 14 wins, you'd be talking about him as an All-America candidate," Martelli said. "It's not like he did this alone. We just didn't freeze and watch him. But look at the numbers. There's not a lot of guys who've played in this uniform that have had those kind of numbers in a game."

Quoted

"It's a shame because he's going to get overlooked, he hasn't gotten Big 5 Player of the Week or Atlantic 10 Player of the Week because we're an average team."

St. Joes head coach Phil Martelli, on DeAndre Bembry

The Hawks have now won two of their last three games, in large part from the efforts of Bembry. They have two winnable Big 5 games coming up against UPenn (4-10, 0-1) Saturday at the Palestra before heading to La Salle (10-8, 2-3) next week.

"I just said to the players, whatever you believe in and whatever prayer you say, hit your knees tonight and thank God that you're going to get a chance to play in the Palestra against a Philadelphia team on a Saturday night," Martelli said. "It gives you chills. If they don't get it, they'll get it when we walk in, because I understand the game is sold out."

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The NFL has controversy again and at the worst possible time, just one week prior to the Super Bowl. / GETTY IMAGES

No answers from Belichick, Brady on balls

NFL. As the scandal continues, neither Bill Belichick nor Tom Brady could shed light on source of deflation.

The plot thickens.

In one of the most bizarre chapters in NFL history, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and head coach Bill Belichick each spent an entire press conference apiece expressing a lack of knowledge as to how 11 of 12 footballs were deflated to illegal levels at halftime

of the AFC title game.

"I was shocked to learn of the footballs on Monday. I had no knowledge until Monday morning," Belichick said. "I'd say I've learned a lot more about this process in the last three days than I knew, or had talked about it, in the last 40 years."

Brady, who said he didn't notice the difference when he took the field for the second half Sunday with a 17-7 lead, echoed the same sentiment.

"The main thing is trying to figure out what happened," Brady said. "I was as surprised as anybody when I found out Monday morn-

Quoted

"I didn't alter the ball in any way. ... I believe in fair play, I respect the league." Brady

ing what was happening."

NFL quarterbacks select which approved footballs they desire to use hours prior to a game. Brady claims the ones he chose were inflated to NFL regulations. What happened afterward is still anyone's guess.

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Another "gate"

Here's a brief look at some of the biggest as well as some of the most trivial NFL controversies named a "gate" by media outlets:

- **Trippgate:** A New York Jets assistant coach, Sal Alosi, tripped Nolan Carroll on a Miami Dolphins kick return and was suspended.
- **Bountygate:** The Saints coaching staff and defense were harshly punished, most notably head coach Sean Payton, who was suspended for a year, after bounties were offered for big hits, or injuries to opposing offensive players.
- **Bottlegate:** This was a scandal involving some disgruntled Browns fans showering players and refs with bottles and debris after a possible game-changing touchdown was taken off the board.
- **Shouldergate:** The 1978 Steelers used shoulder pads when they weren't allowed to prior to the NFL season. The infraction cost them a third-round pick in 1979.
- **Spygate:** Back in 2007, Bill Belichick was fined \$500,000 and the team \$250,000 and a draft pick for videotaping defensive signals from opposing teams prior to facing them.



DEFLATE-GATE COULD BE
BELICHICK'S SECOND BIG
SCANDAL IN THE NFL.
GETTY IMAGES

Super Bowl QBs

Brady, Wilson, a contrast of style

The Seahawks' quarterback and the Pats QB are much alike. Their mental makeup? That's similar. The result after 60 minutes? Similar, too. How they get that result? Ah, therein lies the difference.

Brady is not what you would call a mobile quarterback. He's managed just fine without that gift over his career.

Wilson, however, has that gift. He's got the best

legs in the NFL at the QB position, and he's not afraid to use them (he led all QB's with 849 yards and six touchdowns in 2014). Brady had 57 rushing yards this season.

Seattle destroys teams running the ball with Wilson and Marshawn Lynch. They had the fewest passing attempts in the NFL (454), the second-most rushes (525), and most rushing yards (2,762).

"You try to stop the run and then you have to deal with the play-action game," Bill Belichick said.

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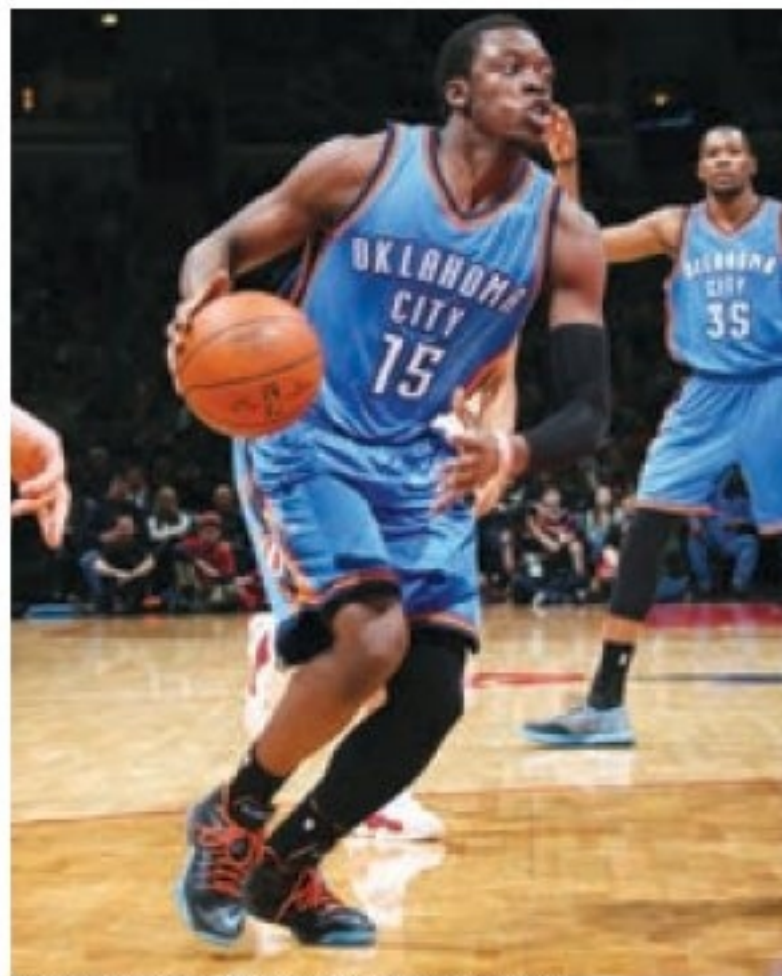
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FANTASY BASKETBALL: NOW'S THE TIME TO TRADE

With less than one month to go before the NBA's annual swap meet, the time to make preparations is now. In the fluctuating market that is player values, owners who get out in front of the news are the ones who reap the biggest rewards. And given how much the landscape projects to be altered at the Feb. 19 trading deadline, I'm willing to speculatively stash guys for the next three weeks. I'm also willing to buy and sell based on projected real-life deals.

Sorry, Ms. Jackson

Reggie Jackson will be a restricted free agent this summer, the Thunder are finally healthy and they recently added a similar scoring guard in Dion Waiters. The writing is on



Reggie Jackson should be a bigger scoring threat once he's away from Oklahoma City. / GETTY IMAGES

NFL news

The previous Raiders regime should have been arrested for giving washed-up runners Darren McFadden and Maurice Jones-Drew carries ahead of Latavius Murray. New offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave doesn't plan to make that mistake. Musgrave said Tuesday that he will "tailor" his run game to Murray, a 6'2", 223-pound beast with 4.38 speed. Expect Murray to be a workhorse in his third NFL season.

the wall here. No matter where Jackson lands he projects to see far more than the 22 minutes per game he's playing in January. And we know that when he does get starter's minutes, high-end fantasy production follows (19.5

points, 7.5 assists, 5.3 rebounds, 1.2 3-pointers in 38.2 November minutes).

Ready to move

Free agent addition Lance Stephenson has been a disaster in the Hornets' defensively-oriented, team-ball scheme. They reportedly have buyer's remorse already and are looking to dump the ex-Pacer. So even though Gerald Henderson's fantasy upside is capped by his mostly three-category production, he needs to be held in deeper formats. Stephenson also shouldn't be sold low on right now, as a change of scenery should serve him well. There are even rumors he could go back to Indy, where he was a top-60 fantasy player last year.

Brook-side

Mason Plumlee has played under 30 minutes in seven of his last 11 games, in large part due to the presence of Brook Lopez. That shouldn't be an issue much longer. According to Yahoo! NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski, the Nets have a desire to trade Lopez — a move that would free up Plumlee to really spread his wings. A double-double waiting to happen, Plumlee's per-36 minute numbers are currently at 16.3 points and 11.0 rebounds. Trade for him now before owners realize the opportunity ahead.



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